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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Takayuki SUGAHARA et al.

Serial No. 10/029,672

Art Unit: 2621

Filed: December 31, 2001

Examiner: Edwards, Patrick L.

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS
FOR EMBEDDING AND
REPRODUCING WATERMARK
INTO AND FROM CONTENTS
DATA

Atty Docket: 0102/0192

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 16, 2005.

Pending claims 1-4, 9-12 and 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The examiner has pointed out a number of indefiniteness problems, particularly with the respect to independent claims 1 and 3, and other indefiniteness problems with respect to independent claims 9, 12, 15 and 19.

With regard to claims 1 and 3, the examiner cites the recitation "calculating a desired bit pattern represented by specific bits". Yet a more accurate reading of the specified phrase in claim 1 is "calculating a desired bit pattern represented by the specified bits and response". Note that the "specified bits" was defined in the third paragraph in claim 1 as those bits in the original picture data which the specified bit detecting means has detected as being watermark embeddable. As for the phrase "wherein the desired bit